

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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Runway and Taxiways:

1. No alterations have been effected on the runway and the perimeter tracks of Merseburg Airfield since 1951, nor has the airfield itself been extended either to east or west since that date.
2. The connecting tracks between the perimeter track and the eastern end of the runway are in very poor condition, being full of holes. The tracks are about 6 meters wide.
3. Aircraft are towed from hangars to the runway by trucks; they usually do not use the perimeter track but are hauled directly over the grass field.

Aircraft Fuel Depot and Supply:

4. MIG fighters are filled up from tank trucks which drive up to them on the parking area from the fuel depot 200 meters west of the last hangar.

Ammunition Depot:

5. There is a supply shed on the airfield. On many occasions, boxes measuring about 40 x 60 x 25 cm have been unloaded from supply cars near this point and have been taken into the cellar below the shed, the entrances to which are invariably guarded by double sentries. The overall measurements of the shed are 100 x 12 meters.

Railway sidings:

6. All sidings on the airfield are of the normal German railway gauge. The northernmost spur runs parallel to the runway. For more than a year, no traffic has been observed on this line.

Another siding spur runs immediately south of the hangars and of the fuel depot mentioned in paragraph 4.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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Other Airfield Buildings:

7. The main road running northwest/southeast of the airfield is called Lauchstaedter Strasse and the administration and barracks buildings of the airfield are located east of this road. The roads leading from Lauchstaedter Strasse to the airfield are blocked for the civilian population. Access from the staff and barracks buildings to the airfield is available through an underpass under Lauchstaedter Strasse. At the point where this underpass crosses under the main road, there is a guard shack manned by a sentry.
8. The so-called "Staff Building" (Stabs-Gebäude) is also known as "Block 11." It has been used as a staff building only since late autumn 1954, before which date the staff building was situated opposite the aircraft parking apron.
9. The staff building has cellar, ground floor and second floor, and a complicated antenna system as shown in sketch#1 is connected to it. According to its color, the wire used in this antenna system is almost definitely bare copper.
10. Some of the rooms in the cellar appear to be lecture rooms, since they have blackboards and maps. On the ground floor are telephone and radio installations and the first floor is divided roughly in half by the office of the colonel commanding the airfield and the office of Lt. Col. Shulak (phonetic spelling), the staff officer of the signal unit on the airfield.
11. Connected to the staff building by a cable which is about 25 mm thick, and about 100 meters west of the building, lies an earth bunker. In this bunker are two separate telephone exchanges, each of which has a manual switchboard of 40 lines.
12.
 - a. Immediately to the west of the staff building lies the officers' mess with steam baths. Next to the officers' mess are the officers' and enlisted men's kitchens.
 - b. East of the staff building is a two-story block of flats for officers' families, and east of this a two-story shop [redacted] the contents having been transferred from premises in August-Bebel-Strasse. Four German civilians and eight German women are employed here. The goods are supplied by the Magdeburg Konsum-Verband. East of this shop is a three-story building which houses families of German civilian workers of the Bunawerk and Soviet officers. A similar block of mixed families is located next door to this. The lieutenant colonel commanding the signals unit lives in the second block.
 - c. A two-story building is used for general administration (personnel, pay, rations, etc.). On its ground-floor is the school for political instruction. In the immediate vicinity is a club house with motion picture theater, newly built in 1954, and next to this a three story block of flats occupied by single officers and married officers with families, mostly flying personnel.
 - d. Adjoining a building containing officers' and enlisted men's kitchens are three two-story buildings occupied by Soviet officers. One of the latter three buildings has a post office on the ground floor.
 - e. There are three blocks of flats occupied by Soviet officers' families. In the ground floor of one of these buildings is the MVD headquarters, commanded by a major, with the second in command holding a captain's rank. Both of these officers wear Soviet air force uniforms.

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Ground Radio and Radar:

13. a. VHF Aerials:
- (1) Opposite the officers' mess, mounted on a Studebaker. Between 20 and 25 February, the mast was retracted.
 - (2) Stationary, since the middle of February, previously mounted on a Studebaker. When the set was dismantled and reerected, the following vehicles were used:
 - (a) one Studebaker truck with telescopic mast at the left side of its body.
 - (b) one Studebaker truck with two-axle trailer.
 - (3) About 100 meters west of the goods shed, mounted on a Studebaker.
 - (4) Mounted on a Studebaker.
 - (5) Base covered with a tarpaulin, making it indiscernible whether stationary or mounted on a truck.
 - (6) Mounted on a Studebaker.
- b. Kniferest:
Two sets are located on the field.
- c. Fishnet:
A Fishnet is located eight meters west of the Dumbo mentioned in "d" below.
- d. Dumbo:
On 18 February, the Dumbo was relocated; a Kniferest is now in its former position.
- e. Token:
The RUS-2 set [redacted] near the Token has been dismantled since the beginning of February [redacted]
- f. Radio:
The radio installation has a telescopic mast, about 12 meters high, from the top of which a single wire leads steeply downwards to a concrete bunker. The bunker is partly subterranean and contains among other things an electric generator. Around this mast are grouped at uneven distances four stakes, each about 80 cm high. The tops of these stakes are all joined by a wire which also leads off into the same concrete bunker. Immediately west of Lauchstaedter Strasse and also west of this bunker is another telescopic mast, about 15 meters high. From the top of this a wire lead runs down to the bunker. A two-meter-high stake supports this lead in the vicinity of the bunker.

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AA Unit Accommodation and Stables:

14. The anti-aircraft unit of the airfield has its accommodations in the buildings of the previous Markscheffel machine factory in Horst-Strasse. This unit has its searchlights stored in the garages of the airfield. The searchlights have a diameter of about 60 cm and are mounted on two-axle trucks, which have double tires on their rear wheels. Nearby are stables for the horses belonging to the airfield. One pair of these animals belong to the signal unit, while the other five belong to the general administration. Attached to the stables is a pigsty, now run by a Soviet civilian.

Possible Accidental Explosions:

15. During the night of the 1 February, three separate explosions were heard by inhabitants of Knapendorf. The explosions were followed by the glow of fire. The sounds and the glow seemed to emanate from the airfield where it adjoins the Knapendorf Land-Strasse.

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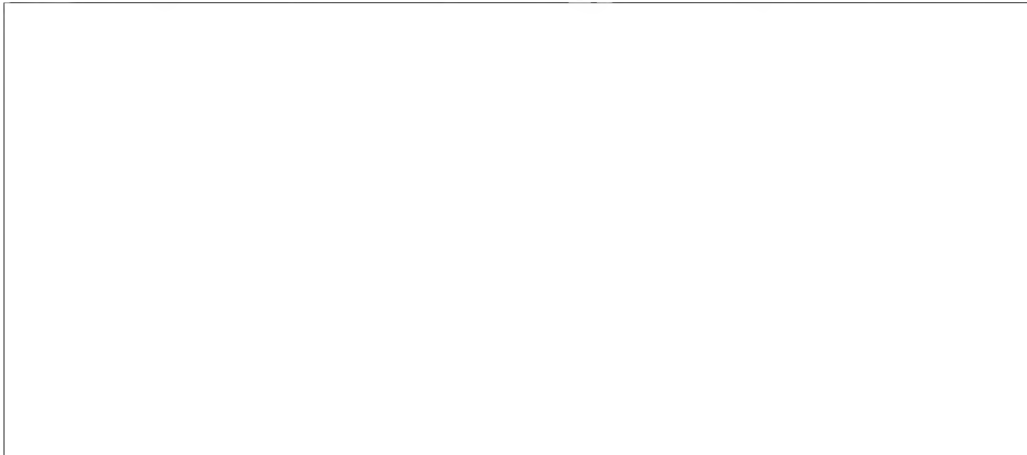
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Miscellaneous:

16. Female officers from Merseburg airfield are allowed to wear civilian clothing when not on duty.
17. For several days prior to the announcement of the replacement of Malenkov by Bulganin, the personnel of Merseburg airfield were on alert status. This was evinced by a doubling of the number of alert aircraft and by the fact that all personnel constantly carried gas masks. The alert continued until some days after the Soviet cabinet change.



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